

Maurice Hinchey NEWS

22nd CONGRESSIONAL DISTRICT, NEW YORK

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\$1.18 MILLION SECURED BY HINCHEY TO AID SULLIVAN COUNTY PRIORITIES

HARRIS - U.S. Representative Maurice Hinchey (NY-22) today was joined by the Sullivan County recipients of \$1.18 million he secured in the fiscal year 2003 appropriations law. A member of the House Appropriations Committee, Hinchey earmarked funds for Catskill Regional Medical Center (CRMC), the Bethel Performing Arts Center (BPAC) and the Watershed Agricultural Council (WAC).

"In very diverse ways, these three projects are each vital to the future of Sullivan County," said Hinchey. "Quality health care, world-class cultural attractions, and environmentally sound agricultural practices will be key components of the county's success. I am proud to be playing a part in bringing these important projects to fruition."

As a member of the Appropriations Committee, Hinchey helps write the thirteen discretionary spending bills that Congress must pass each year. In this capacity he has direct influence on the funding of federal programs that are important to his constituents. He also has a greater opportunity to request specific earmarks for projects in the district.

In the FY '03 appropriations process, Hinchey included funding for the Sullivan County projects in three different spending bills. CRMC was slated to receive \$350,000 as part of the Labor, Health and Human Services, and Education bill; BPAC receives \$180,000 through the spending plan for Veterans Affairs, Housing and Urban Development, and Related Agencies, and WAC was awarded \$650,000 in the spending plan for the Department of Agriculture. All of these bills were combined into an omnibus appropriations bill, which was passed by Congress and signed into law earlier this year.

CRMC will use its funding to complete the Selma Ettenberg Center for Women's Health, a state-of-the-art facility for women. Specifically, this will allow the hospital to renovate its maternity unit.

The Bethel Performing Arts Center will include a 17,500-person outdoor performance hall -the future summer home of the New York Philharmonic- and a 30,000-person festival site, utilizing the 1969 Woodstock concert site. The federal funds will aid in the facility's construction.

Of the \$650,000 earmarked for the Watershed Agricultural Council, \$600,000 will be used to plan and design best management agricultural practices to reduce water quality impacts. The remainder will help WAC to purchase conservation easements.